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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : McLaughlin et al.

Art Unit : 2768

Serial No. : 09/463,929

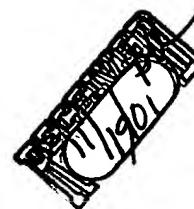
Examiner : R. Fults

Filed : February 1, 2000

Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING TRANSACTIONS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Official

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the abstract:

Please add the following Abstract on page 15:

-- Abstract

A machine for use in carrying out transactions, such as a vending machine, accepts payments by reducing the value of credit data stored on a card. The accumulated total of payment received is stored in an internal memory, for example on another card. This value is transferred only to authorised downloading cards. A stop card can be used to prevent future downloading. A test card can be used to enable the machine to perform services or dispense products without a resultant loss in the credit stored on the card.--

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE

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